

A Summary of further Researches on the Etiology of Endemic Goitre.

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The object of the research was to determine by experiment on man whether goitre was caused by matter held in suspension in goitre-producing waters; and to ascertain, as far as possible, the nature of the suspended ingredient which had been surmised to be responsible for the production of the disease.

Thirteen individuals, including myself, were given suspended matter, which had been removed by filtration from goitre-producing water, every morning before the first meal of the day. I and three others developed enlargements of the thyroid gland. The experiment was repeated in the case of eight individuals who were given the same suspended matter, which had previously been boiled for 10 minutes; in no case did any enlargement of the thyroid gland occur.

It is concluded from these results that goitre is due to a living organism of disease present in the water. The incubation period of experimentally-produced goitre was 13 to 15 days.

It is thought probable that the organism of goitre exists as an intestinal parasite in goitrous individuals, since an intestinal antiseptic appeared to have a marked curative effect.

Experiments were made on monkeys to test the possibility of the spread of the disease by the fæces of infected individuals, with negative results.

Plentiful amœbic infection of the intestine was found in the majority of cases of goitre examined. It is not known, however, whether amœbæ have any relationship to the disease.

The research was carried out in Gilgit (Kashmir), and the results obtained refer only to goitre as it occurs there.
